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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,229	08/20/2001	Kenneth N. Harel	CONTC.57582	6394
27629	7590	02/13/2006		
FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP 200 OCEANGATE, SUITE 1550 LONG BEACH, CA 90802				
			EXAMINER A, PHI DIEU TRAN	
			ART UNIT 3637	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/933,229	Applicant(s) HAREL, KENNETH N.	
	Examiner Phi D. A	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 15,16,30,35,36,41-48 and 52-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15,16,30,35,36,41-48 and 52-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-16, 41-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz et al (6295776) in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Kunz et al shows a drywall trim device comprising a relatively rigid elongated core (12) having a curved transverse cross section(14) so as to have a convex outer surface and a concave inner surface, a pair of flanges (16) terminating in respective longitudinal edges, a paper cover (20) bonded to the outer surface of the core and extending beyond the longitudinal edges of the core to form flexible flaps (the edge of the cover which extends beyond the core) having respective outward and inward surfaces, the flaps being formed with spaced apart perforations on the outward surfaces.

Kunz et al does not show the flap having elongated grooves and ridges with at least the inward surfaces including the ridges for anchoring the joint compound on the drywall corner joint, at least the outward surfaces including the grooves, the perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces.

Weldy shows flaps (14, figure 2) having grooves and ridges and perforations for assisting with the anchoring of the device into the corner.

Hummert shows a paper cover (2) having inner and outer grooves and ridges, perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces (figure 2 where the nail puncturing the groove on the left) enabling the easy and secured fastening of the cover to an underlying substrate.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kunz et al to show the flap having elongated grooves and ridges with at least the inward surfaces including the ridges for anchoring the joint compound on the drywall corner joint, at least the outward surfaces including the grooves as taught by Hummert, the perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces as taught by Weldy because having corrugated surface with grooves and ridges with perforations at the grooves of the outward surfaces would enhance the attachment of the joining compound to the cover and its supporting wall as taught by Hummert, and having the anchoring surface with grooves and ridges on the flaps would enhance the secured fastening of the flaps to the underlying substrate as taught by Weldy.

Per claim 16, Kunz et al as modified shows the flaps having alternating grooves and ridges on the inner and outer surfaces.

Per claims 42-45, Kunz et al as modified shows the ridges being of uniform height, spaced equidistant apart, the ridges being continuous in the longitudinal direction of the flap, the flap being formed with the ridges extending the full length thereof

4. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz et al (6295776) in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Kunz et al (figure 1) shows a protective drywall joint strip device having an elongated rigid core (12) of a predetermined width and terminating in opposite longitudinal edges, a paper cover (20) bonded to the core and configured to project laterally beyond the respective edges to form the respective flexible flaps having an outwardly facing surface and inwardly facing surface, the flaps being formed with respective perforations spaced equidistant, and extending through the flaps to form open flow apertures for flow therethrough of joint compound, the perforations being at least $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch in transverse cross section.

Kunz et al does not show the flap being formed on at least four parallel elongated grooves defining reinforcing ribs, the grooves being spaced $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch apart and the ribs being raised outwardly from the bottom of the grooves at least $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch, the perforations being spaced equidistant along the ribs.

Hummert shows a paper cover (2) having inner and outer grooves and ridges with at least four parallel elongated grooves defining ribs, perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces (figure 2 where the nail puncturing the groove on the left) enabling the easy and secured fastening of the cover to an underlying substrate with joining compound(col 2 lines 66).

Weldy shows perforations spaced equidistant along the ribs to enable strong engagement of plaster material to attach the cover to a wall.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kunz et al to show the flap being formed on at least four parallel elongated grooves defining reinforcing ribs as taught by Hummert, the grooves being spaced $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch apart and the ribs being raised outwardly from the bottom of the grooves at least $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch, the perforations being spaced equidistant along the ribs as taught by Weldy because having

Art Unit: 3637

corrugated surfaces with at least four parallel grooves and ridges would enhance the attachment of the joining compound to the cover and its supporting wall as taught by Hummert, and thus resulting in a stronger finish wall surface, and having the anchoring surface with grooves and ridges on the flaps with perforations spaced at equidistant from the ribs would enhance the secured fastening of the flaps to the underlying substrate as taught by Weldy, and it would have been an obvious matter of engineering design choice to show the grooves being spaced $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch apart and the ribs being raised outwardly from the bottom of the grooves at least $1/64^{\text{th}}$ of an inch since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component; a change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

5. Claim 16, 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz et al (6295776) in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Ritchie et al (figure 5) shows a drywall corner protection strip device having an elongated metal core (10') having first and second longitudinal edges, a paper cover (12') bonded to the metal core and extending beyond the first and second longitudinal edges to form flexible paper flaps, each having an outwardly facing surface and an inwardly facing surface, the paper cover being constructed of fibers and strengthening compound mixed together, the strengthening compound encapsulates the fibers (col 3 lines 10-12, lines 44-48).

Ritchie et al does not show the flaps being formed on their outwardly facing surfaces with spaced apart perforations and extending through the flaps to their inwardly facing surfaces

Art Unit: 3637

to provide for the communication of uncured joint compound between the outwardly facing surfaces and the inwardly facing surfaces during the installation of the drywall corner protection strip device onto the drywall corner joint, the flap being formed on both their outwardly facing and inwardly facing surfaces with alternating elongated grooves and ridges, the perforations being formed along the grooves of the outside surface of the flaps.

Hummert shows a paper cover (2) having inner and outer grooves and ridges with at least four parallel elongated grooves defining ribs, perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces (figure 2 where the nail puncturing the groove on the left) enabling the easy and secured fastening of the cover to an underlying substrate with joining compound(col 2 lines 66).

Weldy shows perforations being in the grooves of the outside surfaces of the flaps, the perforations being spaced apart and extending through the flaps to their inwardly facing surfaces to provide communication of uncured joint compound between the outwardly facing surfaces and the inwardly facing surfaces during the installation of the drywall corner protection strip device onto the drywall corner joint to enable strong engagement of plaster material to attach the cover to a wall.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ritchie et al's structure to show the flaps being formed on their outwardly facing surfaces with spaced apart perforations and extending through the flaps to their inwardly facing surfaces to provide for the communication of uncured joint compound between the outwardly facing surfaces and the inwardly facing surfaces during the installation of the drywall corner protection strip device onto the drywall corner joint, the perforations being formed along the grooves of the outside surface of the flaps as taught by Weldy, the flaps being formed on

Art Unit: 3637

both their outwardly facing and inwardly facing surfaces with alternating elongated grooves and ridges as taught by Hummert because having corrugated surfaces with grooves and ridges with perforations at the grooves of the outward surfaces would enhance the attachment of the joining compound to the cover and its supporting wall, and thus resulting in a stronger finish wall surface.

6. Claims 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ritchie et al in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Ritchie et al as modified shows all the claimed structural limitations. The claimed method steps of making a drywall joint protection strip device would have been the obvious method steps of making Ritchie et al's modified protection strip device.

7. Claims 52, 53, 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz et al in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Kunz et al (figure 1) shows a drywall corner protection strip device having a relatively rigid core, a relatively flexible cover strip (20) for overlying the core and bonded to the core, the cover projecting beyond the opposite sides of the core to form respective flexible flaps formed with inner and outer sides, the flaps are further formed with a plurality of perforations disposed along the length thereof and filled with the joint compound.

Kunz et al does not show the inner sides of the flaps being formed with a plurality of alternating longitudinal flap grooves and ridges to be embedded in joint compound interposed between the inner sides and a respective corresponding portion of the exterior surfaces of the panels to fill the grooves and anchor the flaps in the compound.

Hummert shows a paper cover (2) having inner and outer grooves and ridges with alternating elongated grooves and ribs, perforations being in the grooves of the outward surfaces (figure 2 where the nail puncturing the groove on the left) enabling the easy and secured fastening of the cover to an underlying substrate with joining compound(col 2 lines 66).

Weldy shows perforations being in the grooves of the outside surfaces of the flaps, the perforations being spaced apart and extending through the flaps to their inwardly facing surfaces to provide communication of uncured joint compound between the outwardly facing surfaces and the inwardly facing surfaces during the installation of the drywall corner protection strip device onto the drywall corner joint to enable strong engagement of plaster material to attach the cover to a wall.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kunz et al to show the inner sides of the flaps being formed with a plurality of alternating longitudinal flap grooves and ridges to be embedded in joint compound interposed between the inner sides and a respective corresponding portion of the exterior surfaces of the panels to fill the grooves as taught by Hummert and the grooves and ridges being on the flaps as taught by Weldy because having corrugated surfaces with grooves and ridges would enhance the attachment of the joining compound to the cover and its supporting wall, and thus resulting in a stronger finish wall surface as taught by Hummert, and having the anchoring surface with grooves and ridges on the flaps would enhance the secured fastening of the flaps to the underlying substrate as taught by Weldy.

Per claim 55, Kunz et al as modified further shows the ridges and grooves being continuous throughout the length of the flaps.

8. Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunz et al in view of Weldy (re34547) and Hummert (1426872).

Kunz et al as modified shows all the claimed limitations except for the perforations disposed in longitudinal rows and formed on their respective outer sides with the grooves aligned with the respective rows of perforations.

Weldy further shows perforations disposed in longitudinal rows and formed on their respective outer sides with the grooves aligned with the respective rows of perforations to enhance the anchoring of the cover to the joint compound.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kunz et al's modified structures to show the perforations disposed in longitudinal rows and formed on their respective outer sides with the grooves aligned with the respective rows of perforations as taught by Weldy because it would enhance the anchoring of the cover to the joint compound.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15-16, 30, 35-36, 41-48, 52-55 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

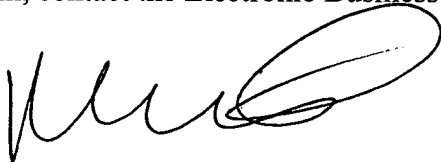
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows wall finishing device.

Art Unit: 3637

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phi Dieu Tran A

2/6/06